

POLITICAL SCIENCE (COURSE 17)

Department of Political Science (<https://catalog.mit.edu/schools/humanities-arts-social-sciences/political-science/#undergraduatetext>)

Bachelor of Science in Political Science

General Institute Requirements (GIRs)

The General Institute Requirements include a Communication Requirement that is integrated into both the HASS Requirement and the requirements of each major; see details below.

Summary of Subject Requirements	Subjects
Science Requirement	6
Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences (HASS) Requirement [between two and five subjects can be from the Departmental Program]; at least two of these subjects must be designated as communication-intensive (CI-H) to fulfill the Communication Requirement.	8
Restricted Electives in Science and Technology (REST) Requirement	2
Laboratory Requirement (12 units) [can be satisfied by 17.803 in the Departmental Program]	1
Total GIR Subjects Required for SB Degree	17

Physical Education Requirement

Swimming requirement, plus four physical education courses for eight points.

Departmental Program

Choose at least two subjects in the major that are designated as communication-intensive (CI-M) to fulfill the Communication Requirement.

Required Subjects ¹	Units
17.801 Political Science Scope and Methods (CI-M)	12
17.803 Political Science Laboratory (CI-M)	15
17.THT & 17.THU Thesis Research Design Seminar and Undergraduate Political Science Thesis ²	24

Restricted Electives

Select seven subjects, including one subject from each of the four groups listed below and three additional political science subjects representing a coherent plan of study. Specific subjects satisfying these criteria should be chosen in consultation with a faculty advisor.

Units in Major 132-135

Unrestricted Electives ³	81-120
Units in Major That Also Satisfy the GIRs	(36-72)
Total Units Beyond the GIRs Required for SB Degree	180

The units for any subject that counts as one of the 17 GIR subjects cannot also be counted as units required beyond the GIRs.

¹ Students typically enroll in subjects as follows: 17.801, fall term, junior year; 17.803, spring term, junior year; 17.THT, fall term, senior year; 17.THU, spring term, senior year.

² 17.THT and 17.THU may be replaced by two additional elective subjects in Political Science.

³ This chart has been calculated based on an overlap of 36 units (three subjects) between the HASS General Institute Requirement and the departmental requirements. Students who develop a program of study with more overlap will be able to select more unrestricted electives to meet the number of total units beyond the GIRs required for an SB degree.

Restricted Electives

Political Philosophy/Social Theory

Select one subject in political philosophy/social theory from the following: 12

17.007[J]	Feminist Thought
17.01[J]	Justice
17.021[J]	Philosophy of Law
17.03	Introduction to Political Thought
17.031	American Political Thought
17.035[J]	Libertarianism
17.04[J]	Modern Conceptions of Freedom
17.045[J]	Power: Interpersonal, Organizational, and Global Dimensions
17.05[J]	Humane Warfare: Ancient and Medieval Perspectives on Ethics in War
17.055	Just Code: The Ethical Lifecycle of Machine Learning

American Politics

Select one subject in American politics from the following: 12

17.20	Introduction to the American Political Process
17.251	Congress and the American Political System I
17.263	Electoral Politics, Public Opinion, and Democracy
17.265	Public Opinion and American Democracy
17.269	Race, Ethnicity, and American Politics

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17.271	Mass Incarceration in the United States
17.275	Public Opinion Research Design and Training Seminar
17.279	Political Misinformation in the Age of Social Media
17.28[J]	The War at Home: American Politics and Society in Wartime

Public Policy

Select one of the following options: 12

Option 1

Select one political science subject in public policy from the following:

17.30[J]	Making Public Policy
17.303[J]	Methods of Policy Analysis
17.307	American Public Policy for Washington Interns
17.309[J]	Science, Technology, and Public Policy
17.315	Health Policy
17.317	US Social Policy
17.381[J]	Leadership in Negotiation: Advanced Applications
17.389	Education, Inequality, and Politics
17.391[J]	Human Rights at Home and Abroad
17.393[J]	Environmental Law, Policy, and Economics: Pollution Prevention and Control
17.395[J]	Innovation Systems for Science, Technology, Energy, Manufacturing, and Health
17.399[J]	Global Energy: Politics, Markets, and Policy

Option 2

Select one subject in another field designated as fulfilling the public policy requirement

International Politics

Select one of the following options: 12

Option 1

Select one subject in international relations / security studies from the following:

17.40	American Foreign Policy: Past, Present, and Future
17.407	Chinese Foreign Policy
17.41	Introduction to International Relations
17.42	Causes and Prevention of War

17.433	International Relations of East Asia
17.445	International Relations Theory in the Cyber Age
17.447[J]	Cybersecurity
17.449	Emerging Technology and International Security
17.46	US National Security Policy
17.473	Nuclear Strategy and Proliferation
17.483	US Military Power

Option 2

Select one subject in comparative politics from the following:

17.50	Introduction to Comparative Politics
17.503	How Dictatorship Works
17.511	Critical Perspectives on Data and Identity
17.53	The Rise of Asia
17.537	Politics and Policy in Contemporary Japan
17.55[J]	Introduction to Latin American Studies
17.561	European Politics
17.565	Israel: History, Politics, Culture, and Identity ¹
17.569	Russia's Foreign Policy: Toward the Post-Soviet States and Beyond
17.57[J]	Soviet and Post-Soviet Politics and Society: 1917 to the Present
17.577	Electoral Politics in the Developing World
17.571	Engineering Democratic Development in Africa
17.581	Riots, Rebellions, Revolutions
17.591	Research Seminar in Applied International Studies

¹ 17.567, a 9-unit version of this subject that is taught during IAP, is also acceptable.